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## PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on  
Wednesday, July 7th, 1858,

BARRY DELANY, Esq., M. D., in the Chair.

The Rev. James Graves, Hon. Sec., stated that he had received a letter from the Private Secretary of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, conveying the gratifying intelligence that his Excellency "had much pleasure in acceding to the request" of the Honorary Secretary, that he should become a Member and Patron of the Society. His Excellency was therefore unanimously elected a Patron of the Society, in the room of the late Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Carlisle.

The following new Members were also elected:—

The Rev. Joseph Callwell, Aghavea Rectory, Brookborough; and the Rev. Robert Stanley, Rectory, Edermine, Enniscorthy: proposed by the Rev. George H. Reade.

Albert Callanan, Esq., M. D., 1, Morison's-quay, Cork: proposed by Richard Corbett, Esq., M. D.

Richard Linn, Esq., Banbridge: proposed by Alexander C. Welsh, Esq.

Thomas Baker, Esq., M. D.: proposed by T. L. Cooke, Esq.

The Rev. Edmond Madden, Courtfield Cottage, Ross, Herefordshire: proposed by J. F. Shearman, Esq.

Arthur J. Boyd, Esq., Parade, Kilkenny: proposed by John G. A. Prim, Esq.

Thomas B. Morris, Esq., 40, Upper Sackville-street, Dublin: proposed by Mr. James Cleary.

P. Moore, Esq., Academy-street, Cork: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

The Hon. Secretary laid before the Meeting a communication from Mr. James Crosby, of London, conveying a formal resolution of the newly established Kent Archaeological Society, proposing

that the Societies be placed in connexion for the interchange of publications, &c. Mr. Crosby writes:—

“ *Church Court, Old Jury, E. C., 18th June, 1858.* ”

“ MY DEAR SIR,—The Council of our Kent Society had its first Meeting on the 10th instant, at Lord Camden’s, when I had the pleasure of proposing the union of your Society with ours for the interchange of publications. The proposal was agreed to unanimously, and I now enclose a formal letter from the Secretary. I exhibited a volume of your Transactions as evidence that you would be worthy coadjutors, and as a pattern for our people to follow. We go on admirably, and now number nearly 600 members. I think I may promise you a very respectable volume in the course of the year.

“ Very sincerely yours,

“ JAMES CROSBY.

“ *The Rev. James Graves.* ”

The proposal was unanimously agreed to, the Meeting expressing their satisfaction that the labours of the Society met with recognition in the sister isle.

The Hon. Secretary said that having communicated to Captain Alcock, of Wilton, the failure of Lord Templemore’s agent, Mr. Knox, to carry out his engagement relative to the repair of Dunbrody Abbey, he (Mr. Graves) had been directed to send back the ancient seal connected with Dunbrody, which Mr. Knox had asked for as an equivalent for Lord Templemore’s proposed expenditure, and which Captain Alcock had at once, in the most liberal manner, consented to give. Mr. Alcock said:—“ I am sorry that Lord Templemore delays the required repairs to those beautiful ruins.” The antique was returned to its owner.

An invitation to the Members of the Society to attend a Conversazione at the Architectural Museum, London, was also laid before the Meeting.

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors:—

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq.: “ The Ulster Journal of Archaeology,” No. 22.

By the Publisher: “ The Gentleman’s Magazine” for June and July, 1858.

By the Royal Irish Academy: their “ Proceedings,” Vol. VI., part 4.

By the Surrey Archaeological Society: their “ Collections,” Vol. I., part 2.

By the Author: “ The History of the Ancient Scots,” by the Rev. Duncan M’Callum.

By the Cambrian Archaeological Association, “ *Archæologia Cambrensis*,” third series, No. 15.

By the Author: "An Account of Ancient Glass Beads and Cylinders, found on the strand of Dunworley Bay, Co. Cork," by the Rev. William C. Neligan, LL. D.

By the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society: their "Original Papers," Vol. V., part 3.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 795 to 804, inclusive.

By the Author: "Stereoscopic Views of Clonmel and the Surrounding Country," by W. D. Hemphill, Esq., M. D. Nos. 4 to 8, inclusive.

By Mrs. G. Anderson: an interesting autograph letter of Lady Morgan's, when, as Sidney Owenson, she was a boarding-school girl in Dublin. It was dated Oct. 30, 1794, and addressed to her father, Mr. Owenson, Theatre, Cork.

By Mr. Dunn, Kilkenny City Relieving Officer: a small Copper Coin found in Kilkenny." Dr. Aquilla Smith, to whom it had been submitted, considered it to be an early French Baronial coin.

By Walter Croker Poole, Esq., M. D.: a Cutting for the Album of the Society, relative to "The old Countess of Desmond."

Mr. James G. Robertson exhibited a coin, found on the grounds of the Model Farm of the National Board of Education, near Kilkenny. It was of brass, and simply bore the annexed letters stamped on one side; from the place of its discovery it might be presumed to be a Kilkenny Tradesman's Token.

Richard Long, Esq., M. D., of Arthurstown, Co. Wexford, sent for exhibition a bronze thumb-ring of large size: it bore the letter "W." crowned, and appeared from its workmanship and the form of the letter and crown to belong to the fourteenth century. It was given to him by an old lady, Miss Myra Devereux, whose ancestor received it from the last Abbot of Dunbrody Abbey, who also was a Devereux.

The Rev. James Graves said that Mr. Le Hunte of Artramont, near Wexford, had shown him an impression of a bronze ring with a similar device—a crowned "W." The only difference in the make of the rings was, that that described by Mr. Le Hunte was corded or twisted diagonally across the entire hoop, whilst, in Dr. Long's ring, the cords or ridges ran parallel with the hoop for some distance at each side of the signet, crossing it diagonally only at the back of the hoop. It was a curious coincidence that a ring found near Wexford (as was the case with the ring alluded to by Mr. Le Hunte) and this old family relic should bear the same device. Perhaps, but this was a mere conjecture, there was some allusion to the initial letter of the town or county of Wexford.

The following communication was received from Alexander Colville Welsh, Esq., Dromore:—

"In the 'Journal' of the Society, vol. i., new series, page 79, there is a description given of a rare specimen of ancient ring-money; though rare, the specimen is not, however, unique. Among others in my collection there is one of a similar kind. It is composed of about thirty light-coloured gold bands, having about a like number of darker alternate narrow bands, beautifully executed in the joining and soldering. On a close inspection it discovers the avaricious disposition of our predecessors; for it is no more than so many rings or bands of fine gold, placed on a solid hoop of brass, each band decreasing from the outer surface to the inner part of the brass ring: it is so highly finished that it would have deceived a skilful metallist before the great discovery of Archimedes reached our isle. I conjecture that the brass was first beat to its present form, and each band of gold fitted separately. My reason for this supposition is this,—had the brass been first overlaid with the gold (which is about the thickness of ordinary note-paper), and then soldered, the force required to bend it to its present shape would have caused the joints to yield, for, notwithstanding the ductility of the gold, though the outer parts might have expanded, the inner could not have been compressed without causing the injury to the joints which I have mentioned.

"It is worthy of observation that the greater number of ancient ring-money was produced by the hammer, and in general they show traces of hammering on the surface; but in the one I have described no such marks are perceptible, the surface being perfectly smooth and even: the discovery of the mode of its formation is owing to a slight deficiency in the brass, which caused a small portion of the gold to press into the hollow. I should, perhaps, mention that at each extremity the gold bands are pressed over, so as partly to cover the ends of the brass ring, which gives it the appearance of having been rudely severed across; the weight is 6 dwts. and 10 grs. It was found some years ago, with one of solid gold, weighing 4 dwts. and 6 grs.; both were sold to a jeweller in Belfast, from whom I purchased them. The ring above described is not a solitary instance of an early attempt at counterfeiting, for I have another of a similar kind which is formed of three pieces of copper wire parallel, and covered with fine gold, and bent to the ring shape; the gold beaten or pressed into the two hollows caused by the three wires, which gives it the appearance of a triple ring: unfortunately, it was broken in two before it reached me. It was found in the townland of Ballymacormick, about one mile from this place. It would be highly interesting if the one in possession of Mr. Nelis could be particularly examined without injury, or weighed in water to ascertain whether it contains any spurious metal. Some persons might object to this, supposing it would take away from its intrinsic value; but, if so, it would add to its antiquarian worth.

"Should the above notice be worthy of a place in the Transactions, it may, perhaps, lead to a more particular search being made, which may bring to light other valuable specimens of ring-money now lying unnoticed in the cabinets of the curious."

The Rev. J. O'Hanlon sent a continuation of his valuable labours amongst the records of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland: his

present contribution had reference to the topographical materials connected with the county of Louth, and was as follows:—

“The following are the matters referring to the county of Louth, as marked in the Catalogue of the Topographical Collection, Ordnance Survey Office, Dublin:—I. Names from Down Survey, and Book of Survey and Distribution (see Leinster, vol. i.). II. Extracts, vol. i. (see, also, page 33, Index to Irish Part, not arranged, and some are contained in the volume of Armagh and Monaghan Letters). III. Letters, vol. i. IV. Name-Books, 43. V. Parish and Barony Names, one sheet, vol. A. VI. Memorandums, one volume. VII. Index to Names on Maps, one volume. VIII. Sketches of Antiquities, 3.

“I. The names from Down Survey, &c., are to be found in the folio Leinster, vol. i., already alluded to, and are contained within pp. 685 to 765. There is an index to the parish and barony names, in two columns, on page 685. The arrangement of the matter is similar to that relating to other Leinster counties, in the same volume, as already described. II. This volume of Extracts is a 4to, newly bound,<sup>1</sup> consisting of 167 numbered and loosely written pages. It contains Queries from Dr. O'Donovan, addressed to Messrs. O'Keefe and O'Conor, concerning the county of Louth; excerpts from ‘Annals of the Four Masters’ (English); from the ‘Irish Calendar’ (Irish); from Colgan’s ‘Trias Thaumaturga’ (English); from Colgan’s ‘Acta Sanctorum’ (English); from Archdall’s ‘Monasticon.’ On the last page is a double-columned index to proper names, in the pages preceding. The reference to page 33 relates to the matter concerning Louth, contained in a MS., the contents of which have been already detailed in a previous communication. It is known as No. 2 of the Miscellaneous MSS., and is entitled ‘Extracts from the British Museum, Lambeth, Oxford, and Lambeth Libraries.’<sup>2</sup> The index to Irish part of extracts is contained, on three loose pages of foolscap folio paper, in the Irish and

<sup>1</sup> This volume has been suitably bound and lettered, and, in accordance with the uniform design, adopted in regard to the other MSS., which are being prepared for removal to the Library of the Royal Irish Academy.

<sup>2</sup> In order to save reference to the special contents of the Common-place Books on future occasions, I find it expedient to present a complete catalogue of them, with a summary of their matter, according to the alphabetical and numerical arrangement adopted in their classification. There is a detached List of these Common-place Books, in three folio leaves, which are placed, separately and unbound, in the “Catalogue of the Topographical Collection in the Ordnance Survey Office, Dublin, in charge of the Civil Assistant, Joseph Mooney.” It is preceded by a note from P. O'Keefe (dated 26th Oct., 1842) to George Petrie, Esq., apparently in answer to a query of the latter, regarding a mistake in the binding or arrangement of a particular Codex, amongst the Common-

place Books. All of the latter MSS. are well bound, and in quarto shape; but, there are some Indices thereto, detached from them, as will be subsequently noted. Some of these Common-place Books are paged, whilst others are not; and in many of them, the greater portion of the leaves is entirely blank. In the first place, I shall give the summary of the contents of each, under inverted commas, as noted in the “Catalogue of Extracts, Transcripts, &c., contained in Common-place Books;” and whatever observations succeed, in a different shape, shall be understood as recording the description, opinions, or notes of the present writer, on the original MSS., after a careful inspection of their contents.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK A.—“Topographical Dictionary; List of Irish words that enter into the Composition of many names of places in Ireland.” This is an invaluable MS., almost entirely in the handwriting of Dr. O'Donovan; it might be said altogether, but for the introduction of a few pasted or

English character. These pages are tied in blue wrapping-paper. The extracts contained in the volume of Armagh and Monaghan Letters, referring to Louth, principally treat of ancient territorial arrangements; and, for purposes of description, come more properly under the docu-

loose slips of note-paper, containing a few observations, germane to the subject. The pages are not numbered. This MS., containing 183 pages (excluding insertions), is about the average size and uniform width of the remainder of the series. It is well filled throughout with composite words, and proper names of places in Ireland, which are arranged in alphabetical order. It contains an incredible number of references to MSS. and published works, with derivative etymologies and historical notes, in English, Latin, and Irish. The latter is usually in the Irish character. The amount of research bestowed on this single MS. can only be comprehended by one who has examined its contents; I should say, the time employed on it must have formed no inconsiderable portion of a man's life, were I not well assured of the almost superhuman industry of the compiler, and of the endless variety of MSS. he has transcribed, not to speak of the many valuable works he has already published.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK B.—“Alphabetical Lists of all the names of Parishes, Granges, Territories, Townlands, &c., occurring in the Irish Ecclesiastical Annals of the Diocese of Connor, and in Archdall's *Monasticon Hibernicum*, under Co. Antrim; Indices Locorum to Dubourdieu's Statistical Survey of the Co. of Antrim, to Hamilton's Letters concerning the North Coast of Antrim, to M'Skimmin's History of the County and Town of Carrickfergus, to the History of the Town of Belfast, to that part of Usher's *Primordia* which treats of Ireland, and to O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*; Genealogies from M'Firbis; Extracts from *Bibliotheca Stowensis*, &c.; Index to Correspondence, &c., concerning names of places, antiquities, &c., in the County of Antrim.” This MS. contains 325 numbered pages, well filled, and all in Dr. O'Donovan's handwriting, with a few immaterial exceptions. The names of places are in the English, Latin, and Irish character; with the genealogies all in the Irish character. This MS. is exceedingly valuable for the purposes of the Irish topographer and genealogist.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK C.—“Glossarium Topographicum Hibernicum, collected from various printed Books and Manuscripts; Indices Locorum to; the Life of St. Patrick, from the Book of Arnagh; Dubourdieu's Statistical Survey of the County Down;

Hardiman's Irish Deeds in *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*; that part of Archdall's *Monasticon* which treats of the County Down; the Ecclesiastical Annals of the Diocese of Down; Adamnan's and Magnus O'Donnell's Lives of St. Columbkille.” The pages of this MS. are not numbered, but are for the most part well filled, in Dr. O'Donovan's handwriting, exclusively, and in the English, Latin, Greek, and Irish characters. This MS. is full of valuable historical notes and references, especially to the following published works and MSS.:—“1. A Glossary of the Irish Language by Cormac Mac Cuiloinain, King of Munster and Bishop of Cashel, who was born in 831 (see Ann. Inisfal.). 2. The Annals of Tigernach, Abbot of Clonmacnoise, a man worthy of the highest historic credit. 3. The Annals of the Four Masters, published by the Duke of Buckingham, vol. i. 4. The second volume of the same Annals, in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy. 5. Usher's *Primordia*, printed in 1639. 6. Colgan's Works, printed in 1645 and 1647. 7. O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*. 8. Keating's History of Ireland, vol. i., published by William Haliday of Dublin, in 1811, and second vol. MS. 9. Lanigan's Ecclesiastical History of Ireland. 10. A Glossary of the Irish Language, compiled by Michael O' Cleary, the chief of the Annalists of Donegall; and many others too numerous to be here particularized.” To the foregoing list of authorities are appended the words, “by John O'Donovan.”

COMMON-PLACE BOOK D.—“Index to the Annals of the Four Masters; Extracts from same, relative to places in the County Londonderry; Extracts from Peter O'Connell's Dictionary, in British Museum.” In pencil-marks I find, “Rough Index of Places to Extracts, not arranged.” This is a MS. of 318 numbered pages, well filled, and, for the most part, in Dr. O'Donovan's handwriting. It is alphabetically and chronologically arranged, and in the English and Irish characters. Some of Eugene O'Curry's handwriting is to be found in this MS., and on the last page, in pencil-marks, I find the words, “See the Extracts (unbound) from Peter O'Connell's Dictionary.” The latter remarks refer to two original parcels, yet unbound, sent by Mr. O'Keefe, who transcribed them in the British Museum. The first parcel contains twenty-nine quarto pages; the

ments relating to the counties in question. III. The Antiquarian Letters are contained in one volume, 4to, which, as yet, is neither paged or indexed. There are 323 closely written pages in this MS., as I find on counting them. There are 25 letters in this volume, of which number

latter comprises the same number. These extracts are taken from Bibl. Egerton. 84, 85. The Rough Index to Common-place Book D is contained on two pages of foolscap folio paper. It contains twenty-eight proper names, in the English and Irish character, with references to the page. These pages are loosely placed in the wrapping-paper.

C<sub>OMMON</sub>-P<sub>LACE</sub> B<sub>OOK</sub> E.—“Round Towers, by Mr. Petrie.” This MS. contains only a few beautifully written pages of Mr. Petrie’s celebrated Essay on this subject. These pages were copied by an accomplished scribe, named Hayes. The Essay is left incomplete, and the greater portion of the unnumbered pages of the MS., in which it is found, are blank.

C<sub>OMMON</sub>-P<sub>LACE</sub> B<sub>OOK</sub> F.—“Irish Calendar of Saints.” This MS. contains 229 numbered pages, with many others written, but unnumbered. It is all in Mr. O’Keefe’s handwriting, with the exception of a few annotations in Dr. O’Donovan’s. It contains St. Aengus’s Litany, O’Clery’s Irish Calendar, and the Genealogies of the Irish saints, all in the Irish character, yet frequently annotated in English: the old names of places and saints being thus explained and identified. It is followed by an admirable and complete Index, in which the Irish letters are rendered into the English character, with suitable references to the days of the month, in regular alphabetical order. Invaluable as a guide to the Irish hagiologist.

C<sub>OMMON</sub>-P<sub>LACE</sub> B<sub>OOK</sub> G.—“Will of Donall O’Gallagher, concerning all the old Customs of O’Donnell in the Territory of Tirconnell, 1626; Pedigree of O’Dogherty; Poem from the Book of Lecan, relative to Aileach, &c.; Translation of same; Extract from MS. in Trinity College Dublin, relative to antient names of Hills, Rivers, and Places of Ireland; Translation of Extract from the Dinneanuschus, relative to Tara; Tributes of the King of Aileach, from the Book of Leacan; Translation of same; Extract from an Irish MS. ; Tain bo Cuailnge; Derivation of the name Tara, from Book of Glendalough’s; Translation of Extracts from Books of Leacan and Ballymote.” In pencil-marks I find, “Rough Index of Places to Irish Extracts in this book, not arranged.” This MS. contains 339 numbered pages, in the Irish and English characters, all written

by Mr. O’Keefe and Dr. O’Donovan. The detail already given will best explain its valuable historic character. There are thirty-six foolscap folio leaves of an index, unbound and tied up in blue wrapping-paper. It contains proper names in the English and Irish character, with references to the pages of the bound quarto volume. In the second volume, No. 14, new series, n.<sup>o</sup> 1, p. 46, I incorrectly described the Common-Place Book G as having been exclusively written by Dr. O’Donovan.

C<sub>OMMON</sub>-P<sub>LACE</sub> B<sub>OOK</sub> H.—“Irish Deed between the O’Briens and O’Loughlans; Transcripts from O’Gara’s Collection of Irish Poems.” In pencil-marks I find, “Rough Index of Places mentioned in this book, not arranged.” This MS. contains 319 numbered pages; all of which, however, are not filled. It is written in the Irish character, and is supposed by Mr. O’Lalor to be in the handwriting of Mr. Russell. The index is contained in sixty-six folio foolscap pages, tied in blue wrapping-paper, and unbound. It is in the English and Irish character, with referential numbers to pages in the quarto MS.

C<sub>OMMON</sub>-P<sub>LACE</sub> B<sub>OOK</sub> I.—“Thoughts on the Trade of Ireland; Irish Herbal; Extracts from Book of Leacan, relative to the Dannonian Conquest of Ireland.” In pencil-marks I find, “Rough Index of Places in the Irish Extracts, not arranged.” This MS. contains 217 numbered pages, the remainder being blank. It is written in the English and Irish character. The first tract is transcribed in English by Mr. O’Keefe, and the remainder in Irish, English, and Latin, by Eugene O’Curry. The “Alphabetical List of the names of Irish herbs, trees, shrubs, &c., taken from Keogh, Threlkeld, Crabb, Casey, and O’Reilly,” translated by Eugene O’Curry, is particularly curious and valuable to the Irish naturalist. The Index to this MS. is contained in twenty-one foolscap folio pages, unbound, and tied in blue wrapping-paper, being of uniform arrangement with the other indices, already described.

C<sub>OMMON</sub>-P<sub>LACE</sub> B<sub>OOK</sub> K.—“Index Familiarum to the Leabhar Leacan.” The pages of this MS., which is well filled, are unnumbered. This MS. is all in the handwriting of Mr. O’Keefe, I believe, and alphabetically arranged, in the English, with occasional names in the Irish character.

21 are written over the joint signatures of P. O'Keefe and T. O'Connor, and 4 are written by John O'Donovan. The letters of the former gentlemen contain many curious, but rude, drawings of antiquities, and were written from the following places, and at the following dates, viz., Drogh-

COMMON-PLACE BOOK L.—“Dockwra's Narrative ; Extracts from O'Sullivan's Hist. Cathol. ; Account of the building of Castles in Clare, from an Irish MS. ; Inquisitions from Office of Chief Rem., relative to Derry and Donegal ; Miscellaneous Extracts relative to Ireland, from *Collectanea Historica*, MS. in Trin. Col. Dub. ; Inquisitions, Letters Patent, and various short Documents relative to Derry ; Extracts from Patent Rolls (Ex Officio Rotulor. Canc.) relative to same ; Confession of O'Dogherty's Treason, by his Mother, to Bishop of Derry.” This MS. contains 328 numbered and closely written pages of matter, in the English, Irish, and Latin character, and transcribed by various hands. Attached to this MS. I find, a rough Index to Derry and Donegal Inquisitions, on pasted slips, contained on eleven leaves of foolscap folio paper. The proper names are in the English character, with references to the pages of the MS. in question. These leaves are loose, and enclosed within brown wrapping-paper.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK M.—“Papers relating to County Meath ; Extracts from the O'Reilly MS., R. I. A., relative to Wicklow ; Notes relative to the O'Malone family ; Agreement of Mac Geoghegan and Fox ; An Inquisition for Sligo.” This MS. contains 318 numbered pages, and, for the most part, blank. It is all written in the English character. There are two loose leaves (folded into the MS.), containing six proper names, with references, to the Inquisition taken at Sligo. See a former notice of this MS. in the “Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society” for the month of March, 1858, vol. ii., new series, p. 46, n. 2.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK N.—I find in pencil-marks, “See Inquisitions.” Then comes the list of contents, as follows :—“Copy of Deed of Partition of the Sligo Estate ; Copy of grant from King Charles II. to William Earl of Strafford, and Thomas Radcliffe, Esq., of the Manor Castletown and Lands of Sligo, &c., County Sligo ; an Inquisition for Queen's County.” This MS. contains 136 numbered pages, all closely written ; the remaining pages are blank.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK O.—“Liber Regalis Visitationis ; Vita Sancti Kierani de Cluain M'Nois ; Généalogie de la maison des O'Cahanes.” This MS. contains 271 numbered pages of matter, extracted from

the “Liber Regalis Visitationis,” with index thereto, referring to the Dioceses of Dublin, Kildare, Leighlin, Ferns, Ossory, Waterford, Lismore, Cashel, Emly, Cork, Cloyne, Ross, Limerick, Kilfenora, Killaloe, Ardfert, Tuam, Clofert, Kilmacduagh, Elphin, Killala, Achonry, Ardagh, and Meath. Then follows the Life of St. Kieran, in contracted Latin ; afterwards the Genealogy of the O'Cahanes, in French ; and a Genealogy of the De Lacy family, in Spanish. The latter is not named amongst the subjects of this MS. as found in the list of matters it purports to contain.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK P.—“Charters of Kells ; Transcripts of Political and Historical Poems, from various Irish MSS.” In pencil-marks I find, “Rough Index of Places, not arranged.” This MS. contains 312 numbered pages, one-half of which are not written on ; the contents are in the English and Irish character ; the transcriber of the greater part, if not the whole, was Eugene O'Curry. I was incorrect in formerly stating that most of this MS. had been transcribed by Dr. O'Donovan (see vol. ii., new series, p. 46, n. 3). The MS. is of great historic value. In it I also find the copy of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Todd to Mr. John O'Donovan, dated London, March 29, 1837, and giving the results of the former gentleman's researches in the British Museum, when he discovered many valuable MSS. relating to Ireland. The “Rough Index,” tied in blue wrapping-paper, contains 35 pages of foolscap folio paper, in the English and Irish characters.

COMMON-PLACE BOOKS Q AND R.—“Strafford's Survey of the County Mayo.” These MSS. were copied from the original, in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy. They are preceded by an alphabetical index of proper names, with paginal references. Then follow 166 folio numbered pages ; double that number of pages being closely written on, in Common-place Book Q. The folio pagination is carried out and continued, with the same subject, to 321, in Common-place R. The leaves in the latter MS. are also closely written. Accompanying both those MSS. is an index, bound in wrappers or boards. It is alphabetically arranged, and refers to “Strafford's Survey,” contained in the volumes in question. It is not numbered, but contains 175 closely written pages.

eda, 1835, December 19, 21, 24, 29. 1836, January 4, 7. Dunleer, January 15. Castlebellingham, January 18, 19, 21, 22. Ardee, 27, 30. February 2, 3, 4. Louth, February 7, 12. Dundalk, February 15, 20, 24. Dr. O'Donovan's four letters were written at Dundalk, and are respec-

COMMON-PLACE BOOK S.—“*Repertorium Viride.*” After this title I find in pencil-marks, “A Registry of Churches, &c., in Diocese of Dublin, Glendalough, and Deanery of Kildare.” This is a transcript of the compilation of John Alan, Archbishop of Dublin. The greater number of the pages of this MS. are blank. It has been already referred to in previous communications; and, of course, it must be considered a valuable record of ecclesiastical matters referring to the dioceses in question.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK T.—“Extracts from the *Leabhar Leacan.*” In pencil-marks I find, “Rough Index of Places, not arranged.” This MS. contains 127 numbered pages, one-half of which number is blank. It is all in the Irish character, and transcribed by *Éoghan Ó Cíomháin* (Eugene O'Curry). Having found the name of this learned Irish scholar thus correctly written, I should remark, *en passant*, that in the county of Clare, of which he is a native, this gentleman could not be otherwise called in the Irish language. I have been informed by Professor O'Curry himself, that an elder brother of his, yet living, is the chief of the clan or tribe name, and therefore that the latter should, according to recognised national usage, be denominated The O'Curry. Let us hope, therefore, that the learned Professor of Irish History and Archaeology in the Irish Catholic University shall no longer be *mismastered* by his countrymen; but, that his family name shall henceforth be pronounced, as it should be written, with the national prefix. There is an index of 51 loose folio foolscap pages to the Common-place Book T, contained within a blue cover of wrapping-paper. It is in the Irish and English character.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK U.—“Extracts from the Book of Survey and Distribution (Londonderry).” This MS. contains only 13 closely written pages, copied from “Stratford's Survey, a short time prior to Down Survey, 1653, burnt,” as I find noted on a blank page preceding.

COMMON-PLACE BOOK V.—“Extracts from Irish MSS. in Trin. Coll. Dubl.” This MS. contains 64 numbered and written pages, all in the Irish character, and in the handwriting of Eugene O'Curry, who, towards the close of his transcript, has the following

note over his sign manual:—“Discontinued this collection for want of time.”

COMMON-PLACE BOOK W.—“Irish Life of St. Maodhg, MSS. in R. I. Academy.” In pencil-marks I find, “Rough Index of Places, not arranged.” This MS. contains 89 numbered and closely written pages, all in the Irish character, and in the handwriting of Eugene O'Curry. The “Rough Index” is contained in blue wrapping-paper, in 6 unbound foolscap folio pages, in the Irish and English character. On the back of the wrapper is written, “the part that refers to Connaught only.”

COMMON-PLACE BOOK X.—“Index to Feileire Aongusa.” In pencil-marks I find, “An Irish Calendar of Saints.” This is a most valuable MS., for the use of the future Irish hagiologist, and most beautifully written by an accomplished scribe. On the title-page I find—“Compiled for the use of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, T. A. Larcom, R. E., Superintendent, 1841. J. O'Sullivan.” And on the reverse of the same page I find—“This Index, compiled by Eugene O'Curry, and transcribed by J. O'Sullivan, 1841.” The title that precedes the Index is as follows:—“Index to the Festiology of Aengus Ceile De, *Leabhar Breac.*” It contains 132 pages, more or less filled with proper names and subjects contained in the original, with reference to the different days of the month. The arrangement is truly admirable, and reflects the greatest possible credit on the industry and capability of Professor O'Curry, as a learned Irish MS. compiler and arranger for the press. Would that his manifold literary labours could be better known to the reading public through the medium of print. His zeal and readiness, on all occasions, to furnish information and aid to others engaged in preparing works for the press, have been frequently and gratefully acknowledged by those indebted to him; but, we have just reason to expect that the fund of valuable matter he has obtained from the most recondite sources, on the subject of Irish history, archaeology, and literature, will, to some extent, gratify the growing spirit of inquiry amongst the learned, on those interesting national topics.

Next follow twenty-nine MSS., classed amongst the Common-place Books, in quarto shape, and uniform with the preceding se-

tively dated February 23, 23, 24, 25, A. D. 1836. There is a map of the county of Louth, drawn on squares, bound up with these letters. IV. The Name Books are 43 in number, and uniform with others already described. V. The Parish and Barony Names of this county are contained

ries, besides a number of detached Indices. These I shall endeavour to notice separately, but in connexion with the Common-place Books, to which they refer. According to their last classification on the catalogue, I note the Common-place Books, not in the order in which they are entered, but in the serial succession of volumes as at present numbered.

**VOL. I., CORK INQUISITIONS.**—This MS. contains 331 written and numbered quarto pages of Inquisitions, taken in the reign of Elizabeth and James I., at Cork, Kinsale, Mallow, &c., and referring to the holdings and families of Roche, Fitzgerald, M'Sweeny, O'Callaghan, Mac Carthy, Mac Awliffe, &c. This, as also every succeeding MS. of the series, was copied from the yet unpublished MS. Inquisitions, preserved in the Record Office of Birmingham Tower, Dublin Castle.

**VOL. II., CORK INQUISITIONS**—Contains 319 written and numbered pages, taken at Cork, Bandon Bridge, Duhallow, Rossberry, Buttevant, Carrigtoghill, referring to families of Mac Carthy, Barry, Lord Courcy, O'Driscoll, O'Keefe, Power, O'Leyne, &c.

**VOL. III., CORK INQUISITIONS**—Contains 329 numbered and written pages, taken at Cork city, &c. Refers to families of Mac Carthy, O'Hea, Barry, Mac Sweeny, O'Cahill, O'Leary, O'Healahie, O'Keefe, Barret, Coppering, Cotter, O'Donovan, O'Herlihy, O'Callaghan, O'Garvan, O'Daly, Travers, O'Skally, O'Connell, Power, Goggan, O'Cromine, Comyn, Creagh, Supple O'Cuirck, Magner, O'Sullivan, Casey, Ronayne, Condon, Meade, Hurly, Roache, O'Moroghae, O'Mahony, &c.

**VOL. IV., CORK INQUISITIONS**—Contains 324 numbered and written pages, taken at Bandon Bridge, &c. In addition to the families already named, the names of O'Crowly, Aldworth, Lombard, Browne, Daunte, O'Spellane, M'Grath, O'Mulligan, O'Fyne, Mac Quinneally, Walsh, O'Feaghe, O'Mulcrien, &c.

**VOL. V., CORK INQUISITIONS**—Contains 201 numbered and written pages, taken at Mallow, &c. Besides the names already or in part mentioned, we find those of O'Brien, O'Keyrane, O'Murphy, Sarsfield, Quinlan, O'Daly, O'Leaghie, Greatrax, &c. This volume also contains Mac Carthy Reagh's Rental, a very curious document.

**VOL. VI., CORK INQUISITIONS**—Contains

330 numbered and written pages, taken at Mallow, &c. Besides the names already or in part mentioned, we find those of Shears, O'Cullane, Clayton, O'Norsey, Fitzgeralds, O'Donoghane, O'Regan, &c.

**VOL. VII., CORK INQUISITIONS**—Contains 279 numbered and written pages, taken at Bandon Bridge, &c., in the time of James I., Charles I., Cromwell. Besides the names already or in part mentioned, we find those of Beecher, Cane, Nugent, Mac Egan, Townsend, Broderick, Clancarthy, O'Reardon, O'Coinigane, &c. This MS. contains O'Driscoll's Rental.

Detached from the foregoing seven volumes is a quarto index, stitched in a pasteboard cover, in double columns of 200 unnumbered pages, which are filled with proper names and references to the several foregoing volumes and separate pages.

**VOL. VIII., TIPPERARY INQUISITIONS**—Contains 322 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Queen Mary, &c. Refers to the various families in the county, as the O'Kenedy's, O'Briens, Mac Shanes, Cantwells, Fitzgibbons, O'Carrols, &c.

**VOL. IX., TIPPERARY INQUISITIONS**—Contains 323 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Charles I. and Cromwell. Refers to the O'Hogans, O'Hiffernans, Butlers, O'Meaghers, Waishes, &c.

**VOL. X., TIPPERARY INQUISITIONS**—Contains 321 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Charles I. and II., at Cashel, &c. Refers to the Mac Geoghs, O'Mearas, Hickeys, &c.

**VOL. XI., TIPPERARY INQUISITIONS**—Contains 55 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Charles I., Cromwell, Charles II., and William III. Refers to the Mac Egan's, Dougans, Ryans, &c.

Detached from the foregoing four volumes is a quarto index, bound, in single columns, in 280 pages, with references to the several volumes and pages of the Tipperary Inquisitions.

**VOL. XII., LIMERICK INQUISITIONS**—Contains 338 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Henry VIII., &c. Refers to the Croaghes, O'Kahels, Roths, O'Briens, Fitz Geralds, &c.

**VOL. XIII., LIMERICK INQUISITIONS**—Contains 231 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of James I. Refers to the O'Reirdons, Creaghs, Archbolds, Standish, &c.

on one sheet (vol. A), folded into a book, bound in quarto size. On this sheet the names are given in parallel columns, and in alphabetical order. Under each heading the different spellings are given, and the authorities for the varied orthography are found in the last column, on the corre-

Detached from the foregoing two volumes is a quarto index, stitched in a pasteboard cover, in double columns, 65 unnumbered pages, filled with proper names, and references to the foregoing separate volumes and pages of Limerick Inquisitions.

**VOL. XIV., WATERFORD INQUISITIONS—** Contains 288 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Elizabeth, James I., Charles I., James II., and William III. Refers to the Powers, Fitzgeralds, O'Mulcahaes, Waddings, &c.

**VOL. XV., WATERFORD INQUISITIONS—** Contains 316 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Philip and Mary, Elizabeth, James I., Charles II., William and Mary. Refers to the Wises, Brownes, Fitz-Barrons, &c. Prefixed to these Inquisitions I find an Irish poem, in the Irish character, on fifteen pages. It is taken from a MS. of T. C. D., classed H. 1. 17.

Detached from the foregoing two volumes, I find an Index to Waterford Inquisitions, in single columns, on 168 pages, stitched in a pasteboard cover, with the proper names and references to separate volumes and pages. In addition, and likewise detached, I find six pages of foolscap folio paper, tied in blue wrapping-paper. It is a rough index to the Irish poem already mentioned, containing proper names, in the English and Irish character, with suitable reference to the proper pages.

**VOL. XVI., CLARE, KERRY, AND WATERFORD INQUISITIONS—** Contains 146 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Charles I., &c.

**VOL. XVII., KERRY AND WATERFORD INQUISITIONS—** Contains 338 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Charles I., &c.

**VOL. XVIII., KERRY INQUISITIONS—** Contains 331 numbered and written pages, taken from the time of James I. to Charles II.

Detached from the foregoing three volumes is an index to Kerry Inquisitions, bound, quarto. It contains 117 pages, in single columns, referring to the several pages of vols. xvi., xvii., xviii.

**VOL. XIX., CLARE INQUISITIONS—** Contains 320 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Elizabeth, &c.

**VOL. XX., CLARE INQUISITIONS—** Con-

tains 325 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of James I., &c.

Detached from the foregoing is a rough Index of 244 folio pages, unbound, but tied within brown wrapping-paper. On an average each page contains 15 proper names, which are severally found within vols. xvi., xix., xx. There are references to these several volumes and their pages. All the names are attached to slips of paper, pasted on the leaves.

**VOL. XXI., GALWAY INQUISITIONS—** Contains 320 numbered and written pages, taken in the time of Henry VIII., &c.

**VOL. XXII., GALWAY INQUISITIONS—** Contains 294 numbered and written pages.

**VOL. XXIII., GALWAY INQUISITIONS—** Contains 313 numbered and written pages.

**VOL. XXIV., GALWAY AND LEITRIM INQUISITIONS—** Contains 192 numbered and written pages.

Detached are 392 pages of a rough Index to the foregoing four volumes. They are unbound, and tied in brown wrapping-paper. They are like the former rough index in form, matter, and arrangement.

**VOL. XXV., LEITRIM AND ROSCOMMON INQUISITIONS—** Contains 322 numbered pages, alternate ones only written. Taken in the time of Elizabeth, &c.

**VOL. XXVI., ROSCOMMON INQUISITIONS—** Contains 127 numbered pages, alternate ones only written.

**VOL. XXVII., ROSCOMMON INQUISITIONS—** Contains 305 numbered pages, alternate ones only written.

**VOL. XXVIII., ROSCOMMON AND MAYO INQUISITIONS.** — Contains 241 numbered pages, alternate ones only written.

**VOL. XXIX., MAYO INQUISITIONS—** Contains 329 numbered pages, alternate ones only written.

There is a rough Index to Roscommon Inquisitions, vols. xxv., xxvi., xxvii., xxviii., in loose leaves, but tied within a brown paper cover, containing 384 pages. They are like the former rough Index in form, matter, and arrangement. There is, moreover, another rough Index to Mayo Inquisitions, vols. xxviii., xxix., in 252 pages, loose, but tied in brown wrapping-paper. These pages are like the former rough Index in form, matter, and arrangement.

I have thus presented a necessarily brief

sponding line. This, it would appear, was the arrangement adopted at the commencement of the Ordnance Survey for the names in question; but one more convenient, for purposes of reference, was afterwards substituted. In this volume are to be found similar sheets, giving the list of authorities for the orthography of baronies and parishes, for the counties of Fermanagh, Monaghan, Armagh, and Donegal. Two of these folded sheets are appropriated to the county of Donegal, and only one sheet to each of the other counties. VI. The 'Memorandums' are contained in one quarto volume, consisting of 169 numbered pages, all of which, however, do not contain writing. An Index of proper names to these several pages precedes them, in three columns. The nature of these 'Memoranda' will be understood, from the accounts already given of similar volumes in former communications. VII. The 'Index to Names on Maps' is contained on 52 pages, in a folio volume. Each of these pages consists of pasted slips. On each slip is first written the name of the townland or locality, then the barony, and afterwards that of the parish, in the county of Louth, in which the first-named divisions or places are situated. The slips also contain the areas of townlands, marked off in number of acres, roods, and perches. This volume is intended for the use of the engravers, clerks, &c., of the Ordnance Survey office. VIII. The 'Sketches of Antiquities,' three in number, are:—1. A pencil sketch of the Friary of St. John, Carlingford. 2. A pencil sketch of the East Gate, Carlingford, and on the reverse, a pencil sketch of Skerry Church, county of Antrim. 3. A pencil sketch of King John's Castle, Carlingford. All of these drawings are evidently by amateur artists, and they are at present loosely laid within the pages of the Antiquarian Letters of the county of Louth. They are of different sizes, but all of them are within quarto size. There are no *Memoir* papers for the illustration of this county. The matters which appertain to its illustration are proportioned to its size, and not to its relative importance, on the score of historic associations and remains of interest, as contrasted with the other counties of Ireland. It was also amongst the earliest of the Irish counties undertaken by the Ordnance Survey staff, and before the latter had been thoroughly organized. It should be remarked that, with the exception of the mapping departments, those persons employed on the antiquarian, scientific, and all other important branches of investigation, were hurried through their labours in such a manner, as to leave their researches necessarily incomplete. This is to be regretted; for with a larger staff, and a more judicious and liberal outlay, a much more satisfactory result could have been achieved, even for the purposes of the map engraving. The defects of this illiberal policy could yet be supplied by local *Memoir* papers, but only to a partial extent.

abstract of the matter to be found in the different Common-place Books; and it would far exceed the limits of a single paper to offer extended commentaries on their importance in serving for the illustration, not only of local but of national history. Had I given the foregoing list of these MSS. in an earlier communication, I would have saved myself the necessity of former detailed references to

the separate subjects they contain, as bearing on the different counties of Ireland; but, when the first of the present series of papers had been commenced, no intention had been formed of enumerating all the valuable materials for parish and county histories and topographical descriptions as yet unpublished, and which are preserved in the archives of the Irish Ordnance Survey Office.

Time has brought changes, even since the period of the commencement of the Irish Ordnance Survey operations; local features and monuments have been injured or entirely obliterated; and traditions, that lingered in the recollections of the peasantry of a former, have passed away from the memory of a latter generation."

The following, accompanied by a number of rubbings, was sent by Sir Erasmus D. Borrowes, Bart.:—

"In the churchyard of Ballycutland, or Cotlandstown, as it is now called, the heart of the great Eustace country, stands an interesting old column, commemorative of that ancient race. It is about 3 feet long, and 10 inches by 8 inches, having 2 feet above ground. The cap of this stone projects about an inch, on three sides of which is an inscription in raised letters; on the upper surface is a socket, which may have held a small cross. Immediately under the inscription are four shields, one on each side; of these I have the pleasure of enclosing *rough* rubbings. On No. 1 is inscribed 'Eustace Lord Portlester, 1462,' so created by Edw. IV., 4th March, 1462. This appears to be in the character of the early part of the last century, sculptured, no doubt, by some conservative hand, lest time might destroy the identification of the ancient monument. Of the older shields of the fifteenth century, No. 2 represents the arms of Lord Portlester, 'or a saltire gule,' surmounted by a Baron's coronet. No. 3, two fleurs de lis; No. 4, a snake knowed. These two latter coats were probably the arms of his two wives, Elizabeth Brune and Margery Jenico, daughter of Jenico Dartois. No. 5, the remains of the original inscription round the top, having reference, perhaps, to his office, to which Ware thus alludes:—'Deputatus fuit aliquendiu Georgii Duciis Clarentiæ, Locum tenentis Hiberniæ, deinde Cancellarius Hiberniæ, et per annos plusquam 38 sumus Quæstor sive Thesaurarius, eaque dum obiret munia, magnas sibi comparavit opes. Ecce vero rerum humanarum vicissitudinem. Paucis ante obitum annis, Thesaurarii munere exactus, alias, easque non leves, prout antea retulimus, passus est molestias.'

"Lord Portlester was the son of Sir Edward Fitz Eustace of Harris-town, whom Henry VI. appointed Deputy to Richard, Duke of York, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 1454. The Eustace family were living at Ballycutland in 1378; of this branch was Christopher Eustace, who was executed for high treason at the Castle of Dublin in 1534. Rubbing, No. 6, shows the upper termination of the grooving of the column."

The following communication from Mr. Daniel O'Byrne, of Aghoany, near Timahoe, in the Queen's County, is given not only as recording a curious discovery, but as a *bonâ fide* specimen of the folk-lore prevalent amongst the peasantry of the midland counties of Ireland, communicated by one of themselves, an intelligent, though, it must be allowed, rather pedantic farmer:—

"After a long silence on my part, I have the honour to present perhaps, an interesting account of two cists lately discovered: one near Timogue, and the other near Timahoe; with adjoined entertaining subjects.

"As the ploughman of Mr. Budds, of Timogue, was employed ploughing, the ploughshare struck on a very large flag, which emitted a hollow sound; this emitment caused the man to consider that something strange lay below the flag; consequently, he dug the earth from off the flag, raised it up, and found a human skeleton lying in a cist which contained nothing of metallic substance. The members of this skeleton were very large, and evinced that the once living being was a man of powerful strength. On removing the remains the man struck a flag lying beneath the remains; the flag gave a deep and hollow sound; he repeatedly struck it with his spade, and by so doing ascertained that another apartment, more deep, rested beneath. He became timorous, and left an interesting curiosity in the wilds of scruple, and in the form of an expiation returned the remains to their primitive resting-place, replacing the flag, and also the earth over it.

"The other cist under notice has been discovered near Timahoe, about 240 yards from the rath of Ballinnaclough, north-east. The cist rested about three feet under the surface in a yellow rabbit-sand,—in fact the place is an outskirt of an esker, principally occupied by cairns. As Mr. Peter Scully, owner of the land, was carting sand from this esker, he disclosed the cist; but not being in any manner of an antiquarian turn of mind, and being altogether ignorant of such matters, he destroyed the cist, and scattered its contents amongst the sand; so that, when I visited the place on the 20th of this month, I had nothing to behold but the remains of the cist, and little or nothing of the calcined bones.

"I measured the flags that formed the cist; they are of that denomination commonly called greenstones, and appear to have been taken from a mountain quarry. It may be admissibly conjectured that they have been taken from Fany Mountain, a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile. As I have observed, I measured the stones; the bottom flag was 16 inches by 12, and about 2 inches in thickness. The four sides and end flags, which made a box-like form, are 14 inches long. Two of these flags measure 7 inches in breadth, the third flag 9 inches, and the fourth 5 inches; each flag is 2 inches in thickness; thus the inside of the cist was 14 inches by 14. The top flag, or covering flag, is 2 feet by  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , and from 3 to 5 inches in thickness, nearly an even surface on one, but rough and quarrylike on the other.

"Mr. Scully, when he discovered this cist, imagined he had a money treasure; the disappointment he met probably caused him to scatter its contents through the sand, and regardlessly draw the same away for use.

"About thirty-four years ago a young man, by name Foran, with whom I was acquainted, dreamed that three pans of gold lay buried in the floor of the Castle of Timahoe: on the day following the night on which he dreamed he came and digged for the three pans of treasure, and in digging actually found beneath the surface three pans of small bones.

"This really appears strange, as the pans rested not more than a foot under the surface. If the pans were deposited there in any one age of the ages of Paganism, when human remains were consumed by fire and the burnt bones buried in urns, certainly it is natural to suppose that in the building of the castle and the making of its ground floor, the pans would have been discovered. Nothing approximates more to a certainty than this hypothesis; for the pans must have been but a few inches under the plane of the floor, as the castle was erected in or about the year 1170, by De

Lacy, for Myler Fitzhenry, 788 years ago; and it is about 343 years since the O'Mores had the castle in possession; and about 307 years intervened from the time the O'Mores possessed the castle and the finding of the pans by Foran; consequently, the surface of what is accounted the floor must have increased in height very much during the years of the castle's ruin, and accumulation of rubbish. Such, after a mature consideration, would half induce a reasonable person to believe that the pans contained gold coins, but that by incantation the coins were commuted into small bones. And what gives some features of credit to such cogitation is, about sixty years ago a man, by name Michael Conor, in the act of digging in his garden in Garryglan, disclosed a pan of large gold coins. The man, overjoyed, left the pan in the position he found it, and went in for his wife, in order to relate his happiness; but on his return with her the pan contained a number of small bones. Astonished, he took up the pan and turned it upside down, on which the bones fell out, and in the bones was an oval gold watch. For this watch he refused in Maryborough fifty pounds. After being some time in his possession it fell into pieces, went to nothing, and never brought to him even one shilling.

“ This tradition, so recent, has been handed down as a narrative, collectively speaking, of an absolute fact. I have received it from a dear friend of mine, who really saw the pan, bones, and watch.

“ Some very wise and learned men will not only discredit, but even impugn, such traditions. In fact, we wish to have some solid proofs in order to annihilate them, if we get not proofs from these learned men,—proofs evincing a direct demonstration. It still appears, in some measure, severe to accuse a people with the weakness of superstition,—a word very often misapplied. To be candid, the peasantry are not inclined to sacrifice, in its collective variety, their thinking power on the words, ‘ Such cannot be so,—such is superstition.’ The twelve syllables contained in these words will not virtually act as the twelve stones that composed the Jewish altar. No, they want proof, and it appears very rash to assert that such people cling to errors, and cherish superstition, having received convincing proofs against such.

“ We must admit that to tradition we owe all our histories. If from the histories of nations traditions are repudiated or cast out, I know not the nation that can produce a history. We may have fragments to read over, but not even one history containing a concatenation of events; therefore, we should not disrespect traditions in profane, or even in sacred, history.

“ About eighty years now past, a man opening a ditch near Grath-danney found a log of wood containing a vast number of silver coins, all as bright as if but on yesterday deposited in the log. The poor man filled his pockets with the shiny treasure, and when he had done so, a woman, a stranger to him, came on the ditch over him and asked for this log; he did not hesitate, he handed up the log to her; she took it, went off: from that moment the silver coins became of no use or value; they lost their colour, and became as dark as tin pieces.

“ This matter seems strange, and borders on enchantment; it appears, when the woman possessed the log, she had power over the money. How will this be accounted for? Will philosophy squash it? It rests on traditional record, and presents many enigmatical points to philosophy.

“ Some very many years past a woman living in Ballintisken, a town-land south of Stradbally, when in the act of spinning flax, was told that her cow was damaging her corn, on which she ran out, taking the rockstick in her hand in order to drive out the cow. On crossing over a rabbit burrow she saw gold coins scattered on the sand at a rabbit-hole, which sand and gold were actually being cast out by a rabbit. This woman, anxious to preserve the corn, stuck the rockstick at the hole, and proceeded towards the cow; when she had driven the cow from the corn, she returned to pick up the gold, but, much to her astonishment and confusion, she saw a rock-stick stuck at each and every hole, and could not recognise her own rock-stick, or discover the gold.

“ Something mysterious attends this tradition. It evinces that a supernatural power was in actual operation; and, as simple as the tradition is, it shows something marvellous regarding incantation appertinent to hidden money.

“ Near to Killy, in the King’s County, is a derry or sandy hillock in a boggy plain. On this derry stand some very ancient hawthorns. About forty years ago a person dreamed that a large pan of gold was buried in this derry. His dream was an exact one, as by it he recognised the spot beneath which this treasure lay; accordingly, he went with some other person, by night, to dig for the pan and its valuable contents. The party laboured hard, and when they believed that they were nigh a discovery, a fire issued from the bottom of the pit they had made; its flames swept over the sand; the gold-seekers fled in utter consternation; and so powerful was the effect of the flames sweeping over the surface, that they glazed the sand as if with burning liquid sulphur, and so concreted it, that flag-like parts of the sand could be carried away.

“ Regarding this very strange account there is no mistake. The vestiges of the flames were visible to all who visited the place; and several persons now living can, so far, bear testimony.

“ Can philosophic argument finally annul what, perhaps, is an evident evincing of sorcery in an after-life’s supernatural power. A subtle disputant may discompose relative ideas to this subject; nevertheless, something remains with an impressive nature, that carries the mind back to other days, and places it on a summit, erected by ancient theory, where it scrutinizes, even in its confusion, the testimonies of history, and a multiplicity of striking traditions. While such exist amid the range of reason and imagination, it ill becomes a person to disregard such, not only interesting, but marvellous consequences.

“ About thirty-nine years ago a coloured man, a negro by birth, lived as servant with the Rev. William Fitzgerald, parish priest of Carlow town. This black man dreamed that a copper pan of gold was buried in the ruins of a monastery in Oakpark, the demesne of the late Colonel Bruen; he told the reverend Father, who endeavoured to dissuade him from his purpose of seeking the treasure; his arguments were in vain, so deep were the impressive hopes of success on the man’s mind imprinted. He prepared; took some trusty friends by night, and dug for the treasure: after some hours’ labour they came to the flag that covered the pan, on which a furious whirling wind came and extinguished their lights: they relighted them, on which a company of horse soldiers came galloping up and presented their

arms; the gold-seekers stood horror-stricken; but the dreamer, as brave as man could be, continued to labour on while flames issued from the pit. The party fled, leaving the blackamoor man, more daring than a lion, to withstand the horrors of the whole contexture of thrilling objects in the silence and darkness of the midnight hour. He reflected, and, while reflecting, a whirlwind raged around him, and he heard a sepulchral-like voice—‘A life is to be lost—is that life yours?’ He paused for a moment, and mentally said—‘What will the treasure avail me if I am dead?’ On which he left the place. The next day he visited the scene of terror, and, much to his surprise, he could not find the exact spot; no marks of the night’s labour remained.

“A philosopher or logician may deny that such or similar things ever existed; nevertheless, an explicit proof is required. I may conjecture that a proof of this nature would cause inquiries to be made in the histories of nations, in historic accounts, and even in sacred history. And if such be made, the thinking powers will meet with obstructions, and, perhaps, weary of mental travelling, will seek some resting-place, and leave the matter to future ages.

“Nearly forty years now past, a young man, by name Fitzpatrick, from Tipperary, residing with friends of his in Moyadd, dreamed that a pan containing much treasure lay hidden near the Castle of Nockardnagun. In fact, he was a bold Tipperary man, and was resolved, at all hazards, to possess the wealth so bewitching in his dream. Accordingly, he, with a few dauntless fellows, went by night to dig for it: after some time labouring, they heard a whistling in the air over them, and so sonorous that they thought it could be heard for many miles around. When the whistling ceased, a rumbling noise, as the far distant sound of many carriages, surrounded them, and, as if out of the noise, issued a whirl-blast that extinguished their lights, and even the turf fire they had to relight them; consequently, they had to return home. On the night following they went to the place much better prepared, and when they had commenced digging, by the same effects they were driven from it. They relighted their candles in a neighbouring house, but on their return the whistling became dreadful, the rumbling sound horrific, and a whirl-blast cast them down in the pit, and completely extinguished their lights. They never after made any attempt to seek the treasures.

“I have received this account from a very honest man, by name Brophy, who actually was one of the party, and is still living.

“I shall make no remarks on this narrative, as I have made so many on matters of this nature. I have no doubt that it will be said I am fond of the marvellous. Notwithstanding this, a person must be found to give the traditions of the country; and by giving them, so far as I know, and by making my remarks, I may be the cause of inducing some learned individual to reason on the nature of such things, and to produce proofs that such have not existence, if I may use the word.

“If proofs do not appear, it is very wrong to assert that the peasantry are superstitious in either believing in such matters, or entertaining ideas respecting them.”

The following Papers were then submitted to the Meeting.